

Christy Meredith – Food Service Worker  
Riverbend Head Start  
1249 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
Granite City, IL 62040

Hon. Michael Kubayanda  
Chairman Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200 Washington,  
DC 20268-0001  
Re: Docket number: MC2021-78

4/29/2021

Dear Chairman Kubayanda,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the impact of moving bound printed matter parcels from the Market Dominant to the Competitive Product category. I know this will dramatically increase the rates for flyers and books that are mailed to schools.

I work with Preschool age children at Riverbend Head Start, and there is no doubt that the additional costs will ultimately be passed on to those purchasing books. There are already too many barriers to reading for most families I work with. I depend on access to affordable books, which the bound printed matter rates provide, to help me close the gap for my lower-income students who normally could not afford higher-priced books.

Typically, more than 90% of my students come from families that don't have the means to create home libraries for their children. As a Scholastic Book Clubs partner, I am able to earn and use Bonus Points to provide each student with 9 books for the school year, for children who would otherwise never have a new book of their own. These books, at home, continue to inspire a love of reading in my students, which has a positive impact on their success in all areas of life.

The pandemic has already had a tremendously negative consequence on my students' learning experience and literacy rates in the United States. The increase in mailing costs of educational materials will make access to children's literature even more difficult. I urge you to deny this transfer, or to exempt educational materials, so that I can continue to provide access to affordable, quality books for my students and families. The impact of this change for our school children would be too high a cost to bear.

Sincerely,

***Christy Meredith***  
Christy Meredith